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Mint of the United States.

Philadelphia, January 26, 1863.

Sir.

I have examined the copy of a Bill enclosed in your letter of the 17th inst. to amend the 30th section of the general Mint law. (act of January 18, 1837.)

By omitting the word "refined" where it occurs in the place scored, the object of the bill will remain unaltered, and a misapprehension or error will be avoided. Properly speaking, refined gold or silver is that which approaches absolute fineness; but a great deal of bullion is fit for Mint purposes which is even below standard; as for instance, ductile bars, plates, foreign coins &c. I further suggest that the words "parting or" be added where they are interlined in pencil mark: and that the word "refined" in the fourth line from the bottom, be struck out, and the word "such" substituted in its place. The proviso will then read as follows: "Provided, That when gold and silver bullion suitable for coinage without parting or further refining, shall be deposited in the Mint for coinage, it shall be entitled to such precedence as to the time of payment, and payment therefor, shall

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be made in such order, as may be equitable and just, and as may be prescribed by regulation approved by the Secretary of the Treasury; and provided further, That no other charge shall be made for converting deposits of such bullion into coin, than is or may be established by law for coinage; and Provided further, That this act shall be construed so as to apply to the Mint and all the Branch Mints in the United States."

I have the honor to be,
very Respectfully,
Your obt. Servant,
J.A. Pollock
Director of the Mint.

Hon S. P. Chase,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington City.